VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
VA TENNESSEE VALLEY HEALTH SYSTEM

GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY FELLOWSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM ORIENTATION
Overview

- Vanderbilt University / School of Medicine
- VU Medical Center
- VUMC Department of Psychiatry
- VA TVHS Hospitals
- Geriatric Psychiatry Fellowship
- Living in Nashville
- Living in a Pandemic
• Founded 1873
• Students:
  – 6,800 undergraduate
  – 6,200 graduate
• Ranked #15 in National Universities US News & World Report
• 4,300 fulltime faculty*
  – 1,400 without VUMC / SOM
• 4,000 staff employees
• Students:
  – 444 MD, 99 MD/PhD
  – 548 PhD
  – 30 MSCI
• Ranks #18 in US News & World Report
• #8 in NIH funding (Over $300 Million)
• 2,900 fulltime faculty
> 100 ACGME accredited programs

Approx. 1000 residents and fellows

Orientation: 300+ new house staff

VUMC: $3 billion annual enterprise
VU Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

• Founded in 1947
• Current Faculty:
  – 100 fulltime, 50 secondary, 80 voluntary
VU Department of Psychiatry

Growth over last few years:
- Development of Divisions
- New Fellowships
- Expansion of Addictions Treatment
- Psychiatric Assessment Service & ER Psychiatry
- Growth in Research Funding

- Renovation of VPH (3,500 discharges; >85% occupancy)
  - Recent addition of Test Inpatient unit on third floor
- Outpatient clinics (>70,000 outpatient visits)
Leadership & Training Staff

Stephan Heckers, MD, MSc.
Chair of Psychiatry

Warren Taylor, MD
Director, Geriatric Psychiatry Division
Training Director, Geriatric Psychiatry Fellowship

Patricia Serrano, MD
Assistant Training Director, Geriatric Psychiatry Fellowship

Shana Scanlin
Program Manager

Elizabeth Wilson
Associate Program Manager
Division Faculty

Paul Newhouse, MD
William Petrie, MD
Lili Sepassi, MD

Harry Gwirtsman, MD
Suzi Azzazy, MD
Shagufta Jabeen, MD
Geriatric Psychiatry Fellowship

Overall Program Goals

*Our goal is to train the next generation of leaders in clinical and academic geriatric psychiatry.*

The Geriatric Psychiatry Fellowship Program has been designed to enable fellows to be able to:

- Provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the promotion of health and the management of psychiatric problems related to aging;
- Apply knowledge in the biomedical, clinical, epidemiological sciences and social-behavioral sciences to their care of patients;
- Pursue an career focused on clinical care, research or teaching, health care leadership, and as a scholarly practitioner.
Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) is a leader in medical education, research, and patient care throughout the Southeast and the nation over the course of its 134-year history. A tertiary referral center for physicians and patients throughout the region, Vanderbilt University Hospital (VUH) and The Vanderbilt Clinic (TVC) consistently rank among the premier health care facilities in the United States.
Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital
106 bed Hospital

Vanderbilt Behavioral Health (VBH) offers individualized patient care through a wide array of connected services that provide each patient with the right psychiatric treatments for his or her needs. We serve patients from Nashville and the Southeast with emotional problems, depression, mood and personality disorders, anxiety and other problems.
The Nashville campus offers primary, secondary and tertiary care to veterans living in middle Tennessee and Kentucky. TVHS is affiliated with Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and Meharry Medical College, with active residency programs in all major medical and surgical specialties and subspecialties. In addition, the Nashville campus supports a vigorous research program of over $26 million annually.
The Alvin C. York Campus of the VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (TVHS) provides primary care and subspecialty medical, surgical, and psychiatric services to veterans. The campus provides long-term rehabilitation and nursing home care, and serves as a VISN 9 resource for the long-term inpatient care of psychiatric patients.
Major Inpatient Rotations

- Inpatient Geriatric Psychiatry (VPH)
- Psychiatry-Medicine Unit (PMU; VA)
- Palliative Care, Inpatient and Hospice
Major Outpatient Rotations

• Geropsychiatry Clinics
  – Vanderbilt
    • Village at Vanderbilt, VPH Third Floor
  – Veterans Affairs Medical Center
    • Single Provider Clinic (Nashville)
    • Multidisciplinary Clinic (Murfreesboro)

• Memory Disorder Clinic
  • Village at Vanderbilt

• Cognitive Neurology
  • Village at Vanderbilt

• Geriatric Medicine / Nursing Home Consultation

• Neuromodulation Service
# Inpatient 6 months of Training

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<td>Psychiatry Grand Rounds</td>
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<td>Geriatric Continuity Clinic (Petrie / Andrews)</td>
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<td>VA Geropsych Clinic (Gwirtsman)</td>
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**VA: Psychiatry-Medicine Unit (4 weeks)**  
**Palliative Care (1 week)**
# Outpatient 6 months of Training

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<td>Memory &amp; Aging Clinic (Newhouse)</td>
<td>Late-Life Depression Clinic (Taylor)</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>Dementia Clinic (MU-VA) (Azzazy / Jabeen)</td>
<td>Geriatric Nursing Home Consultation (Haberman)</td>
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Holiday / Vacation Time

- Holiday Weeks
- Vacation = 3 weeks
- Conference time
Geriatric Seminar/Didactics Series

- 1-hour afternoon session per week (Weds at noon)
- Protected time
- Sessions are open to the entire department
- Schedule and suggested readings will be posted on the following website

https://www.vumc.org/psychiatry-geriatric-fellowship/seminars-and-didactics
Didactic Seminar Examples

Aging Biology & Psychology
- Epidemiology of Aging
- Theories of Biological Aging
- Organ System Changes in Aging
- Drug Metabolism in Aging
- Structural and Functional Brain Changes in Aging
- Cognitive Changes that Occur with Normal Aging
- Age-Related Neurodegenerative Disorders
- Changes in Emotion and Emotional Functioning with Aging
- Preserving Brain Health and Aging

Pathology in Aging
- Major and Minor Depression in Aging
- Bipolar Disorder
- Anxiety and Anxiety Disorders in Geriatrics
- Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders
- Alzheimer’s disease; Frontotemporal dementia
- Lewy-Body dementia; Parkinson’s disease
- Stroke and Cerebrovascular dementia
- Somatic Therapies in Geriatric Psychiatry (ECT; DBS; TMS)
Additional Seminars

• Grand Rounds Enrichment Discussions

• Geriatric Psychiatry Case Conference (inpatient months)
  – In this conference, fellows will be responsible for selecting a patient to present along with pertinent questions and relevant journal articles for discussion. A faculty member will be designated as the leader for this case conference and will serve as a mentor for the fellow presenting.
Additional Seminars

• Psychiatry Grand Rounds
  – This weekly presentation is centered around a formal research-oriented presentation by a visiting speaker or member of the faculty, or by a major clinical service of the Department of Psychiatry focusing on clinical management of particularly difficult problems. Geriatric Psychiatry has at least two presentations each year.

  – Geriatric Psychiatry Grand Rounds Case Conference
    • Deep discussion of a clinical issue in geriatric psychiatry
    • Faculty present review of clinical presentation, neurobiology and treatment
    • Fellows present case (about 10min)

  – Hollender Endowed Lecture
    • Endowed grand rounds, focusing on geriatric psychiatry researchers / topics
Teaching Opportunities

• Teaching of Vanderbilt 2nd, 3rd and 4th year medical students and visiting students/residents

• Opportunities to teach first- and second-year General Psychiatry residents
  – Some first-year residents will rotate through inpatient service

• Teaching opportunities within the community

• Other opportunities, as identified
Geriatric Psychiatry Research at Vanderbilt: Center for Cognitive Medicine
https://www.vumc.org/ccm/welcome

- **Cognitive Aging Program (Newhouse):** Multiple projects with a focus on brain cholinergic pharmacology
  - Long-term nicotine treatment of mild cognitive impairment (national multi-center study led by Vanderbilt)
  - Estrogen and Menopause Studies
  - Alzheimer’s disease phase 3 trials
Geriatric Psychiatry Research at Vanderbilt: *Center for Cognitive Medicine*

- **Late-Life Depression Research Program (Taylor):**
  - Multiple projects focusing on late-life depression, brain structure, and treatment outcomes.
  - Integration of brain aging measures and effect on outcomes
  - Longitudinal study of predictors of depression recurrence
  - Drug repurposing trials
Nashville has it ALL!
Your neighbors in Nashville ...
VUMC and COVID

- Morning screening
- Telemedicine
- COVID-positive patients treated at VUH, not VPH (currently)
- Meetings – in-person vs virtual
Vanderbilt Opportunities

• Prioritize hiring our own graduates
• Inpatient and outpatient options
• Blended positions with VA
• Future opportunities for Integrated Dementia Clinical Service and new Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center
Summary

• Opportunity to develop skills in all aspects of Geriatric Psychiatry
• Collegial and dynamic department
• Outstanding (top 10) academic medical center with substantial growth in geriatric medicine, psychiatry, and neuroscience
• Opportunity to interface with strong Medical School, Department of Psychiatry and Geriatric Medicine
• Great city for activities outside of work

WELCOME TO VANDERBILT!